



Allandale Neighbor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CodeNEXT Community Forum with Mayor Steve Adler

Tues., Nov. 7, 2017, 7-8 pm
Covenant Presbyterian Church
3003 Northland Drive

Come ask the Mayor about CodeNEXT's impact on Schools * Traffic * Property Taxes * Rents * Family-Friendly Housing * Affordability * Infrastructure * Flooding * Environment * Parking * Quality of Life

AISSD Bond on the Nov 7 ballot, more info

AISSD District 4 Trustee Julie Cowan.

The AISSD Board of Trustees voted to place a \$1.05 billion bond on the November 7 ballot. The bond was informed by over 1 and a half years of work by a committee of 18 citizens (Facilities And Bond Planning

Advisory Committee / FABPAC) appointed by the Board of Trustees. AISSD staff and consultants worked with the committee to guide the process and

provide hard data for the decisions and considerations made, including rating every facility's physical building condition and educational suitability.

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Allandale's SINGLE-FAMILY neighborhood Threatened by City's Second Attempt at CodeNEXT

Todd Shaw

Editors Note: In last issue, Allan McMurtry shared a CodeNEXT update, trying to summarize over 1100 pages for us.

CodeNEXT, he says, eliminates much of the compatibility standards in use for decades and, under CodeNEXT, our land in Allandale will allow three dwelling units and up to two families per unit with no required new onsite parking for all the new people. Density is the game, no new parks are slated for the areas designated for more density. No modeling for flooding based on new meteorological data. Where affordability fits is still a

Meet Your New EC!

At the September 6 general membership meeting, your new Allandale Executive Committee, board, and at large members, was voted on and approved. We welcome the following folks for the next Allandale year, volunteering their time to support our neighborhood until next September! We thank these neighbors in advance for the many

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National Night Out RECAP!

Laura DiCarlo

National Night Out (NNO), where residents in neighborhoods across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and spend

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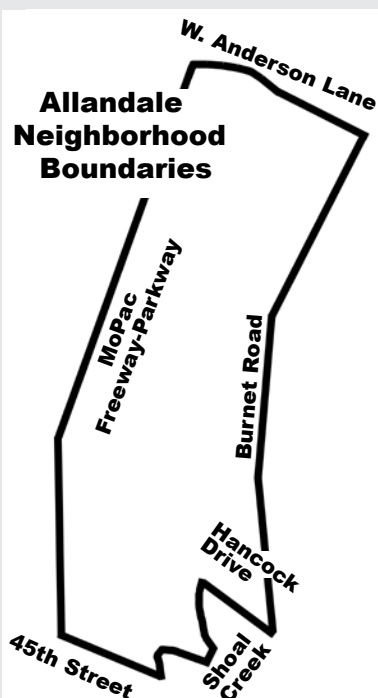
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in March and
September.

Committees

BYLAWS Rand Zumwalt
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NOMINATING Erik Butler
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
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President's Letter: The Past, and Future, of the "Force"

Scott Ehlers, ANA President, 512-553-9365, Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

The Allandale Neighborhood Association, then as now a force in local politics, went into action.

That's what veteran Austin American-Statesman reporter Ben Wear wrote about the ANA for his September 1, 2017 article, "AUSTIN ANSWERED: Why doesn't city have more east-west highways?" I beamed with pride, knowing that I would soon take the helm of an organization that had such a long, storied history of battling City Hall and developers that it had a reputation for being a "force in local politics."

Wear's article told the story of how the ANA killed a plan that would have cut "a 300-foot swath from I-35 to MoPac (and possibly west as far as RM 620) along the existing path of Koenig Lane, Allandale Road and Northland Drive, which connect seamlessly across North Austin. That plan would have taken out houses and businesses on either side through condemnation to make it possible to build freeway lanes and frontage roads." The article went on to note that "there were federal and state lawsuits, the latter of which successfully challenged a 1986 transportation plan featuring the Koenig expansion. The freeway later was reduced to a parkway, then four lanes with a median and turn lanes, which required a swath of less than 100 feet. Ultimately, little was done other than some intersection improvements, and the Northland/Allandale/Koenig chain today is little changed from the 1960s version."

This isn't the only destructive road project that the ANA has stopped. The

first occurred in 1973, the year the ANA was organized. At the time, the city was planning to extend Far West right through the middle of the neighborhood, through Northwest Park, to Burnet Road. Instead we have a pedestrian bridge. Then in 1975, the ANA stopped a proposed extension of Great Northern Boulevard to Anderson Lane.

Can you imagine the destruction wrought on Allandale if a freeway with frontage roads were running down what is now Northland/Allandale/Koenig, if Far West ran through the middle of the neighborhood and Northwest Park, AND Great Northern intersected with Anderson Lane? I don't even want to think about what Allandale would look like today. How many of us would live here today if the Allandale Neighborhood Association had not put a stop to these short-sighted and ill-conceived plans?

Today, there is a new city plan that threatens the quality of life of Allandale residents, and that plan is called CodeNEXT. This massive overhaul of the Land Development Code will rezone every property in Allandale and the rest of Austin. The City Council and mayor insist on approving the proposal by April 2018, no matter how many problems, concerns, and questions are raised about its impact on schools, traffic, property taxes, rents, affordability, family-friendly housing, flooding, the environment, city infrastructure, parking— the list goes on and on. Version One of CodeNEXT was roundly criticized on multiple fronts, and a significant rewrite was issued on Sep-

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tember 15. Unfortunately, as of this writing, nobody knows what public comments were received by the city and consultants, what comments resulted in the changes reflected in the second draft, and what criteria was used to create the “maps” on what types of zoning would be allowed in different parts of the city.

As the ANA’s Zoning Chair, Todd Shaw, explains in his article, CodeNEXT v.2 will up-zone all of Allandale, with properties east of Shoal Creek having the right to build three-unit structures on a property that currently allows one, for instance a duplex with an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) or three cottages. West of Shoal Creek, duplexes will be allowed by right on corner lots and ADUs up to 1,100 square feet on other properties. Parking requirements will be reduced for businesses and homes alike, leading to much more spillover from larger developments that will come in along Burnet Road. Other impacts of this complicated, 1,300+ page ordinance are still being explored.

It is estimated that the code rewrite will increase home and business demolitions from 7,000 structures under the existing code to 10,000. Under today’s zoning,

just under 85,000 units can still be built; CodeNEXT v.2 will allow approximately 160,000 units. The impact of the hundreds of thousands of additional people on schools, traffic, the environment, and infrastructure will be significant but unknown. Unfortunately the unreasonable timelines that the City Council and mayor have imposed make it impossible to adequately analyze the impacts.

Many are unhappy with the lack of transparency with the process and the likely negative impacts of CodeNEXT v.2. A citizen’s ballot initiative is now circulating to require both a waiting period and voter approval by election before CodeNEXT (or any subsequent comprehensive revisions of the city’s land development laws) is legally effective. More at: <https://indyaustin.org/austin-deserves-a-vote-on-CodeNEXT/>.

The ANA and surrounding neighborhood associations are organizing a CodeNEXT Community Forum with Mayor Adler on Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyte-

rian (3003 Northland Drive). We urge you and your neighbors to attend and make your concerns heard. We also encourage you to join the ANA to make sure that we remain a “force in local politics” for years to come. ☼

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AISD Bond on the Nov 7 ballot, more info

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The FABPAC ultimately updated AISD's Facility Master Plan (FMP) into a document that provides context and a vision to eventually modernize all of the district's facilities over a 20-25-year period.

As many know, the state of Texas "recaptures" maintenance and operations dollars from AISD, \$406 million last year and an estimated \$534 million this year, preventing the district over the last decade from transforming its academic spaces into the 21st century. Just as in other sectors, education philosophy and teaching methods are changing and the environment in which we teach has the potential to impact this good work. Fortunately, none of the money raised through a bond can be recaptured by the state; 100% stays in Austin ISD for the benefit of Austin ISD students.

A few points to consider:

Although the bond is large, AISD will not need to increase the Interest & Sinking tax rate to fund it. The bond will depend upon a modest increase in property tax values. AISD maintains the lowest I&S tax rate of all Central Texas school districts (.113 per \$100 valuation) and has actually decreased the rate five cents over the last several years, even while issuing bonds to pay off 2008 and 2013 projects.

The average age of AISD schools is over 40 years.

Although the bond encompasses a lot of work, such as modernizing or rebuilding 16 academic facilities throughout the district, and addresses many critical needs, it fulfills only a first phase of the FMP vision. The FMP identified roughly four billion dollars in deferred maintenance and essential needs throughout AISD. This single bond cannot address every issue, but does attempt to address the current worst first and severe overcrowding.

Homeowners who have a 65 and over homestead exemption registered with the county will NOT see higher AISD tax payments with the passage of this bond.

With the passage of this bond, Gullett Elementary will receive additional tech-

nology, both for students and teachers, and security, fire alarm, and electrical systems upgrades. Lamar Middle School's running track will be replaced and it, too, will receive technology enhancements. In addition, as a highly sought after middle school fine arts academy, Lamar will see substantial renovations in art, music, theater and dance facilities. McCallum High School will benefit from similar projects to Lamar, with a focus on a new dance addition to meet the academic needs of its fine arts students.

Should the bond pass, the Rosedale School is slated to move to a new location where the current Lucy Read PreK center sits in Allandale, at 2608 Richcreek. The Rosedale School offers tailored educational opportunities and quality instruction for children with severe special needs, including children who are medically fragile or need intensive behavioral support. The campus also houses the Transition to Life in the Community program to prepare students for postsecondary life. While great work occurs at the school every day, challenges come with retrofitting a 60+ year old building with the equipment and design needed to provide great learning for this student body.

If the bond does not pass, in addition to TA Brown not being rebuilt, future consolidations and

closures may happen and the district will be unable to fulfill its desire of teaching students in modernized, environmentally safe new spaces.

The Austin Council of PTAs, Austin Board of realtors, and the Austin Chamber of Commerce all support the bond.

Early voting runs October 23 – November 3. Election day is November 7.

Further details of all bond projects can be found at aisdfuture.com. ☼

ANA Executive Committee Meetings

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Meet Your New EC!

Continued from front page

hours of time and talent they will give to Allandale.

First, we thank those finishing their time on the ANA EC:

President, Marshall Thompson
VP, Elliot Brubaker
Secretary, Carla Penny
At Large, Jean Latsha

And welcome to our new board!

President, Scott Ehlers
Vice President, Rand Zumwalt
Secretary, Joanne Senyk,
Treasurer, Erik Butler

At Large returning:

Ranleigh Hirsh
Allan McMurtry
Todd Shaw

At Large new:

Adam Haynes
Monica Malhotra
Jarren Wenderlein Sternburg
Kevin Smith.

Now, let's talk a moment to get to know some of the new ANA EC folks a bit better!

Adam Haynes, EC member, has lived in Allandale for more than 20 years, raising, along with his wife, two sons who attended Gullett, Lamar and McCallum. As Adam says, "one son went off to be a Fightin Texas Aggie this fall and the other is driving now. So, you have fair warning to watch out on the streets." The family is an active member of St Johns United Methodist Church and Adam believes it was time to get involved in this community and the unique neighborhood in which we live. Adam says "I see the changes happening around us; some of them are beneficial and some present challenges needing further consideration." He will help the ANA EC on the finance, land use and zoning committees, applying his professional skills of 25 years working in government relations.

Adam shares that "the primary task fac-

ing us is how to deal with the massive changes to the land-use regulations known as CodeNEXT. This effort will not only determine your private property rights, but it will chart the course of our neighborhood for decades. It is important for you to stay informed and make your concerns known. I promise to work to keep Allandale a place we all want to call home."

Monica Malhotra,

EC member, has 15+ years financial and investment banking experience including sales and trading and an MBA from NYU. She is married with two young daughters, new to Allandale. She is originally from central Pennsylvania but has lived in New York and London for past 12 years. While new to the neighborhood, Monica says



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Meet Your New EC!

Continued from front page

she already loves the small town feel within city limits and the welcoming and friendly neighbors. And she likes the block parties on her street and taking her daughters to Gullett and Northwest parks.

Jarren Wenderlein Sternburg, EC member, is in-house legal counsel for a technology company. She is an animal



loving, voracious reader who keeps the "vegetarian in Birkenstocks look" stereotype alive. Jarren is married with more dogs than reasonable. She's been an Austinite since 2000, via the Houston area, and is new to Allandale this past May. She says she loves the beautiful Allandale trees, the myriad of people enjoying the neighborhood, and all the animals. Jarren says her favorite time in Allandale is "anytime I'm discovering new restaurants, especially with temperatures under 80 degrees on a patio."

Kevin Smith (not Silent Bob), EC member, has 17+ years of experience in water resources management, 12 years of experience in various levels of government. He is married with two furry four-legged companions who roam the fence line and greet everyone who goes by. Kevin is a reformed wanderer who has been visiting Austin since the 1980s. He finally settled here in 1999 and has been living in Allandale for 11 years, purchasing his first home here, with his wife, about eight years ago. Kevin says he loves that even though you are in the middle of the city, there is still a sense of neighborhood pride, friendly neighbors and you feel special to be a part of Allandale. His favorite Allandale tradition is the yearly neighborhood wide garage sale. He says "as I am a bit of a music lover, I am always on the lookout for new thing to add to my collection. The garage sale allows me to have the opportunity to not only meet our neighbors, but to learn why a particular album was purchased. Quite often, you are privileged to hear how the music moved them at that point in their life!" ☿



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Allandale's SINGLE-FAMILY neighborhood Threatened by City's Second Attempt at CodeNEXT

continued from front page

question to Allan. In this issue, another ANA EC member, Todd Shaw, picks up with the next version of CodeNEXT.

The second draft of CodeNEXT (CodeNEXT v.2) released September 15th largely ignores the pleas of Austin's "urban core" neighborhoods to protect the character of their communities. Like many neighborhood associations, Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) recommended that code writers comply with the Imagine Austin Plan in saving SF2 and SF3 neighborhoods by restricting density to activity corridors like Burnet Road and Anderson Lane. However, the new draft increases the number of units throughout most neighborhoods, including the elimination of current SF2 neighborhoods like Allandale. Furthermore,

the CodeNEXT team disregarded most of the recommendations made by the ANA concerning parking, flooding, parks, and neighborhood plans.

The new draft eliminates the Transect and Non-transect zones of draft one, but is still very complex. For residential areas, CodeNEXT v.2 basically creates four types of zones, R1 through R4, with the number representing the maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a lot. Then, each zone is further divided (i.e.; R1A, R1B, R1C etc.) to create additional zones with varying characteristics for lot size and intensity, building form and height, impervious cover, setbacks, and parking among others. The big difference with this new code is that with few exceptions all of the zones allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), often referred to

as carriage houses or granny flats. Those terms are misleading, however— under the code, ADUs can be up to 1,100 square feet., not exactly a "granny flat" or "carriage house" like most people think of. In the new version, the placement of an ADU can be in front of or within the primary structure.

A comparison of existing zones and proposed zones found in Allandale are shown in the table. Zones under the existing code are highlighted. The R2A zone allows a duplex on a corner lot and ADUs with a single family residence, but not both. The R3A zone allows up to 3 units with ADUs permitted with either a house or duplex. R3C adds cottage corners and cottage courts but without ADUs.

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Allandale's SINGLE-FAMILY neighborhood Threatened by City's Second Attempt at CodeNEXT

continued from front page

Zone	Allowed Units (Type/Quantity)	Min. Width (ft.)	Min. Lot Size Min. (s.f.)	Impervious Cover (%)	Building Cover (%)
SF2	House/1	50	5,750	45	40
R2A	House + ADU/2	45	5,750	45	40
	Corner Duplex/2	50	7,000	45	40
SF3	House + ADU/2	50	5,750	45	40
	Duplex /2	50	7,000	45	40
R3A	House + ADU/2	60	6,500	45	40
	Duplex + ADU/3	60	6,500	45	40
R3C	Cottage + ADU/2	40	5,000	45	40
	House + ADU/2	50	5,000	45	40
	Duplex + ADU/3	40	5,000	45	40
	Cottage Corner/3	50	5,000	45	40
	Cottage Court/6	100	10,000	45	40

Although both versions of CodeNEXT would increase density throughout Allandale as a whole, there are differences between the two versions that are worth noting. Allandale south of Hancock Drive saw the greatest changes between CodeNEXT v.1 and v.2, as all of the single-family homes were up-zoned to R2A,

allowing duplexes on corner lots and ADU's with single family residences. The previous zoning –SF2– only allowed a single-family home. The lots north of Northland Drive, west of Shoal Creek and south of Anderson Lane were actually slightly down-zoned from CodeNEXT v.1. The previous maps drastically

changed these SF2 lots allowing homes and duplexes with ADUs, but the second map designates these as R2A, limiting duplexes to corner lots and ADUs only with a single family house. Allandale properties between Shoal Creek and Burnet have been zoned R3A and R3C under CodeNEXT v.2, resulting in similar den



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sities as the first map— three units per property, compared to one unit per property under existing law.

Several other ANA recommendations aimed at protecting communities were disregarded. Although Allandale does not have an approved neighborhood plan, CodeNEXT v.2 does not recognize neighborhood plans, which means that existing neighborhood plans no longer control the development within their planning areas. It is uncertain how these neighborhood plans will be used, which is unfortunate,

given the many hours that communities have spent in developing these City Council-approved plans. Parking requirements are still cut in half and even further reductions –up to 40%– are allowed within a quarter mile of activity corridors. Importantly, the concerns of Austinites of how this new code will increase flooding have been ignored.

The city and developers claim that these changes to the Land Development Code will lower the cost of housing in Austin, a primary goal of Imagine Austin,

but it is readily apparent by looking at neighborhoods like Crestview and East Austin that densification and gentrification do not equal affordability. What is certain is that these proposed changes will forever alter the character of Allandale and other neighborhoods. ANA will collaborate with other neighborhood groups to make sure CodeNEXT –or alternatives to it– don't destroy what we love about Austin and her neighborhoods. Your involvement will be critical to our success. ☿

Editor's Note:

We regret that in our last issue in thanking the awesome businesses who supported our Fourth of July parade, we left out Taco Shack! This is not only a great local business, the owners are also Allandale neighbors and we love and appreciate their participation every Fourth of July in the parade, and with breakfast tacos after. Please make up for our oversight with a visit –or many!– to your favorite Taco Shack. Make sure to tell them Allandale loves them!

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Allandale Eating - Eldorado Cafe

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

The haiku review:

from Tacodeli
comes the chef who made Ottos
with good food all day!

I'm not sure if the lack of a space between the "El" and the "Dorado" is inspired by Tacodeli's fused name, in which case Eldorado might be pronounced el-door-ah-though, or if the name is sourced from the dusty West Texas town in Schleicher County, in which case it might be pronounced el-door-eh-doh. Although I don't how to say it, I do know what it means: delicious Mexican-style comfort food served up fresh and vibrant on the north side of Allandale.

Chef Joel Fried has quite the pedigree, having worked with Jean Pierre's Upstairs, Bitter End, Vespaio, Whole Foods, Stubbs BBQ, and, over the past decade or so, Tacodeli (where the 'deli's Otto has sin-

gle-tacoly raised my life satisfaction quotient by seven percentage points). Joel and his wife and business partner, Joanna, with experience in catering, decided to open a restaurant—their first—to bring a casual neighborhood spot for regular folks to enjoy good food, good drinks, and good company. Being neighborly is personal with the Frieds since they live and love in nearby Brentwood, and the restaurant displays family artifacts, including Joel's father's Latin albums.

With a focus on being a neighborhood cafe, the Frieds are not trying to take over the world (at least at this point). Eldorado is not a high-end chef'd-up eatery aiming for a James Beard award. While I'm a big fan of chef'd-up food, chef'd-up often means mysterious ingredients in tiny portions at exuberant prices. Eldorado is familiar ingredients in hearty portions at reasonable prices with its chefiness stealthily crouched among familiar dishes. The vast majority of Eldorado's menu sports Mexican and TexMex fare, but it also includes flirty fusions into (purely) Texan (biscuits), Cuban, Indian (puchkas), Italian (panzanella), and Chinese (spare ribs) cuisine.

For breakfast, Eldorado offers tacos (\$2.5–\$5), including one, "The Crossing", that I hope references the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name; biscuits and biscuit dishes (\$4–\$7.50); and plates (\$7.50–\$8.50). We've tried the Migas (\$7.50) and Nomad plates (sausage and carnitas scrambled with eggs, tomatoes, onions, roasted green chiles, jack cheese and queso fresco topped with salsa ranchero; \$8.50) and found them both tasty and satisfying.

For lunch and dinner, there's a wide



array of dishes including appetizers (\$4–\$10), salads (\$4–\$11), house-specialty guisos (Mexican stews; \$13–\$15), and enchiladas (\$12). For lunch, we enjoyed the Enchiladas Classicas (ancho chile sauce, jack cheese, and diced onion with chicken [you can also choose beef, cheese, or mushrooms]) and the Enchiladas Sui-zas (creamy salsa verde, avocado, and jack cheese with chicken) along with a fresh agua fresca; \$4.

For dinner, we partook of the Nachos Compuestos (individually constructed nachos with refried black beans, jack cheese, avocado, and Pico de Gallo [we added shredded chicken]; \$9) and the Pork Green Chile Guiso (pork with roasted green chiles and tomatillos plus two sides [we chose rice and Las Calabasas, a hash of butternut squash, zucchini, roasted garlic, toasted pepitas and basil]; \$15). Both dishes were delicious, but the guiso stole the show with unbelievably tender carnitas-style pork steeped in a deeply flavored, mole-esque sauce. We also sipped top-shelf and house margaritas. The house margarita got you there, but the top shelf was the-shelf must-be-on-the-roof good with complex flavors that danced on the tongue. We also enjoyed a sampler of Eldorado's five signature salsas

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PRINCESS TEA PARTY - OCTOBER 28TH AT 2 PM

All fans of princesses and dress up are invited to the Third Annual Princess Tea Party hosted by MacTheatre students. Your favorites will perform, sign autographs and take pictures with attendees. Visit <https://mccallumhs.com/> for more info including how to purchase tickets.

(\$5): Avocado Salsa, Salsa Fresca (inspired by Tamale House), Chile Verde, Salsa X, and El Scorpio (a ghost-pepper infused bowl of pain that must have been inspired by the Hellraiser movies; to maintain my limited machismo I explained away its nearly-full status at the end of the evening due to its limited heat).

The menu includes choices for vegetarians and vegans as well as a kids' menu. We've yet to try the buzzy Shiny Ribs (crispy St. Louis pork ribs coated with sweet arbol chile glaze, garnished with jicama slaw; \$10) or the desserts (which include a sopapilla cheesecake [\$7] and an amazing-looking skillet cherry pie [\$9]). We also need to go back try house specialties such as chef Shauna Mason's Shaunna-Wanna Taco Salad, chef Esme Tejeda's Esme's Magic enchiladas, Joel's Happy Plate enchiladas, and bar manager Laura Beck's specialty drinks [is our Laura Beck moonlighting!?!?!].

The Fried's long experience in the restaurant business has left nothing to chance. They tested the menu at pop-ups

around town; have given a great deal of thought to the mission, menu, aesthetics, and brand; and have clearly hired (and trained) welcoming and friendly staff. Despite the strip mall location, Eldorado is warm, friendly, and familiar as soon as you step inside. It's all the good parts of Austin rolled into an instantly comfortable atmosphere.

In the neighborhood TexMex spectrum, I'd say that Eldorado comfortably fills the gap between our existing neighborhood establishments and Fonda San Miguel, which, I believe, is exactly what the Fried's intended. And based on the peak-time waits and rave reviews, the Frieds have expertly arranged the perfect array of ingredients to create a successful neighborhood destination restaurant.

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Allandale Outside: Let's Talk About Winter Weather

Ginger Soulé

Upon checking with the Old Farmer's Almanac and another source, it appears that November, December and February will be colder and drier than average. Recall that last fall we were hit with a prolonged cold spell with temperatures much lower than expected for so early a pre-winter cold spell. Many of us lost at least one valuable tree, shrub, veggie or other item. I lost an ancient huge Cross Vine (Bignonia) and a Cassia tree (small yellow flowered ornamental) plus recently planted annuals. These items had survived numerous hard freezes previously but had not had time to go completely dormant before the severe early freeze hit. If predictions hold true (always questionable) we will need to provide extra protection to some of our favorite plants this fall especially if it is both "colder and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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National Night Out RECAP!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics, occurred in Austin on Tuesday, October 3.

We had 18 National Night Out (NNO) parties scheduled in Allandale but the wet weather caused some to postpone or cancel completely.

Those that happened received visits from first responders, and Code Enforcement even stopped by Susie Court with capes for the kids! Here are some fun pictures from Carleen, Geraghty, Greenlawn, Glad Tidings, and Susie Ct. (whose party brought residents from Fairlane, Louise Lane, Marilyn, and Sarah Ct.).

Parties were scheduled on Greenlawn, Westfield, Pinecrest, Pinewood Terrace, McElroy, Daugherty (covering Elise and Albata too), Stardust, Woodview, Nasco (held at Glad Tidings), Pegram, Shoalmont area, corner Shoalwood/Whitehorse Trail, Geraghty, Wilbur (with Cavileer, parts of Cary and White Horse Trail invited), Susie Ct. and Orangewood Circle (with SCB).

If there wasn't a party scheduled on your block but you wish there was please reach out to ANA safety Chair Laura DiCarlo at lhdicarlo@yahoo.com and we can hopefully get one set up next year. ☘





Allandale Outside: Let's Talk About Winter Weather

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

drier than normal". Since plants survive better when well hydrated, be sure also to water and cover as appropriate when we get predictions of a hard freeze.

In the meantime, we're still dealing with warmth. Right about now (mid-October) is a good time to both set out and direct seed cabbage family veggies and coriander (cumin) seed— works better than transplants. These items demand cooler soil and air temperatures than

we've had in September. Also plant lettuces, spinach, Asian greens, more carrots, and late October / early November seed in sugar snap and snow peas as these can only be started from seeds— they just don't work from transplants. In our heavy clay soils, the carrot varieties Little Finger and Danver's Half Long work best, not the long skinny varieties. Flowering annuals such as pansies, violas, lobelia, calendula, larkspur, late seedings of bluebonnets and

California poppies as well as spring flowering bulbs can go in. Even though nurseries may say wait till November or December to plant bulbs, I find that they do best if planted earlier so they bloom before we get some hot drying winds in March, which shorten the life of the blooms.

Happy fall gardening everyone. ☿

More Allandale Outside: The Sound and the Fury, Leaf Blower or Rake?

Elaine Robbins

Finally, it's here— the beautiful fall weather we've been waiting for. It's time to rake leaves, let the kids play in the yard, invite friends over for a backyard beer.

I am in the garden pruning salvias when a monarch floats by and land on the purple blooms. Then suddenly, my reverie is shattered when a leaf blower

cranks up somewhere. Its piercing, high-pitched whine turns a pastoral moment into a day-under-the-dentist drill. As my nose fills with gas fumes, I drop my pruning shears and flee inside.

OK, I admit it: I'm not a fan of leaf blowers. The noise just gets under my skin. The two-stroke engines emit a noise that exceeds 85 decibels, a level the Cen-

ters for Disease Control says can cause hearing loss. The sound carries far, which means that a simple yard task can spike stress levels in all of the neighbors within a two-block radius.

Leaf blowers also spew a host of nasty air pollutants, from carbon monoxide and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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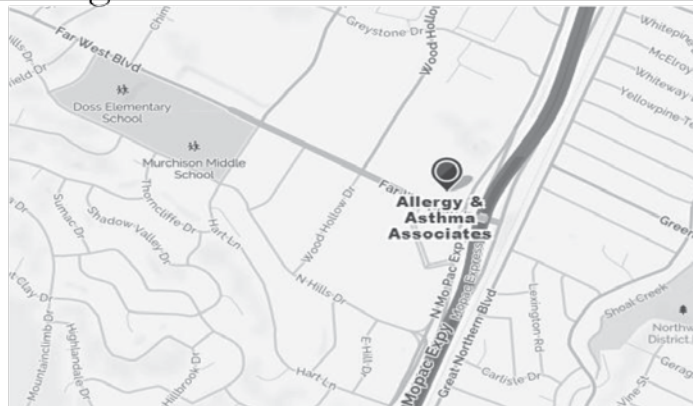
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More Allandale Outside: The Sound and the Fury, Leaf Blower or Rake?

continued from page 14

nitrous oxides (think acid rain) to carcinogenic like hydrocarbons. A car expert at Edmunds found that a leaf blower with a two-stroke engine emitted nearly 300 times more hydrocarbons than a pickup truck. He calculated that to equal a half hour of yardwork, a pickup would have

to drive from Texas to Alaska. Although the newer models—especially electric ones—are much cleaner and somewhat quieter, there's still that irritating whine.

Sure, there may be tasks for which a leaf blower is the best tool. But aren't there times when a rake or broom would do just as well? Here are a few ideas for keeping your yard tidy and your neighbors happy:

Ask your yard maintenance crew to use rakes and brooms instead of leaf blowers. Landscapers complain that it would take

five times as long to clean a yard without blowers, but is that true? In one test conducted by an L.A. task force, a grandmother cleaned an area covered with dirt and pine needles faster (and more neatly) than a young male landscape professional with a leaf blower.

Get your exercise doing yardwork—and get the kids active, too. Per WebMD, raking and bagging leaves burns 350–450 calories per hour, and the stretching and bending is good for you, too.

Skip the leaf collecting and bagging and just mulch leaves in place. According to Bob Villa's website, you can use a special mulching attachment on your lawnmower to equal a half hour of yardwork or if you don't have an attachment, just go over the area two or three times with your mower.

To make leaf bagging easier, pick up a no-clog leaf rake and a pair of yard scoops (Nu Vue XL Yard Scoops, \$14.33 on Home Depot.com). Hardware stores sell leaf bag inserts that will hold the bags open if your spouse won't.

To clean driveways and walkways, get a high-quality outdoor push broom and a large aluminum dustpan (around \$25 for both at Lowe's).

Enjoy the fall weather! October is the best month to see migrating monarchs and other butterflies—making yardwork, when it's quiet, more of a meditation than a chore. ☼

Gullett Good News

Gullett PTA

Gullett is off to another magical year! While this is our 61st, so no special anniversaries to celebrate, it will be special nonetheless. Students and teachers jumped right into back-to-school with special activities and groups ramping right up, including a musical theater performance! Alice in Wonderland includes a cast of over 100 third, fourth and fifth-grade geckos, singing and acting—and even dancing—their hearts out! Music teacher Maggie Grill is taking on this huge undertaking with lots of support from other teachers, parents, and really enthusiastic unbirthdays parties, a flower ensemble, caterpillar parts and even three different Alices. Come see the Geckos on stage



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December 8 and 9, and don't worry, the amazing choir will be back in the spring.

Our fifth-grade Girl Scouts hosted Miss Spider's Tea Party to welcome new scouts, mostly kindergarten girls who have joined three brand new Scout troops at Gullett, which is proud to have over 150 girl scouts across the grades. The No Place For Hate group at Gullett is bigger and stronger than ever and will be doing things throughout the year to make sure Gullett is all about kindness and inclusion. Yearbook already has a committee of fourth and fifth grade students snapping pictures at different events. The fifth graders took on the big job of the Fall Carnival midway and everyone had a blast spraying the school leaders with water guns or playing games under their big top. Overall, the carnival was a fun day for all, the FUN-raiser the school is so proud of.

The week of November 6 will be all things books! Bookfair all week, and litera-



cy night Wednesday November 8. Gullett will end the week, Friday, Nov 10, with its special Veterans Day assembly (and remember, AISD does NOT give students a day off school for Veterans Day).

Remember, Halloween is on a painful Tuesday night this year, so expect tired kids at school on Wednesday, November 1. We have a full week off at Thanksgiving. After school, Friday, November 17 (so early this year), Geckos will not return to school until Monday morning, November 27. The winter holiday break begins Wednesday, December 20, and Geckos will return January 3, 2018.

Gecko Dates to Remember (more details, times can be found on the website, GullettGeckos.com):
 Oct 14 Fall Plant Sale, 9 to noon
 Oct 26, Catch Night, Health and Wellness
 Oct 27, Empty Bowl project bowl glazing
 Week of Nov 6, Bookfair
 Nov 8, Literacy Night
 Nov 10, Veterans Day morning assembly
 Nov 10, 6-9 pm, Lamarfest
 Nov 11, Fun Run for 5th grade legacy

project
 Nov 17, Thanksgiving break begins after school
 Nov 27, students back to school from Thanksgiving break
 Dec 8, 9, Alice in Wonderland
 Dec 20, winter break begins
 Jan 3, students return from winter break ☼

All About Lamar

Laura Dooley



The Lamar Scotties are off to a great start to the 2017-2018 school year! There are a record breaking 1100+ students populating the halls this year, which makes for very busy and exciting times. Lamar is a middle school that shines and excels in so many areas, and we can't wait to see what's in store this year.

The Scottie football and volleyball teams have started their respective seasons and are showing our community that they are strong contenders. Keep up the great work on the field and on the court, Scotties! The choir and theater departments had their back-to-school socials, and are busy making plans for the school-wide musical, Willy Wonka Jr., which will be performed at the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center on February 22 and 23.

We are so excited for LamarFest! Mark your calendars for Friday, November 10, from 6:00-9:00. Lamar will host this family-friendly event that brings out students, teachers, and folks from the neighborhood. Come on out to see all the great things going on at Lamar! This is the only school-wide fundraiser of the year. Wristbands (\$25 ahead of time, \$30 at the door) and tickets can be purchased at the door, at <http://www.lamarmiddleschool.org/lamarfest/>, and in the Lamar cafeteria in the days leading up to the event. Food from some great local vendors including Craig-O's, Jim-Jim's, and Cloud 9 Cotton Candy will be available for purchase. Lamar students from band, guitar, choir, and orchestra will entertain the masses, and everyone can partake in fun activities like henna tattoos, the fun store and bungee trampoline.

Principal George Llewellyn will host an open house on November 16, from 8:45-11:00 for current fifth graders and their families. Keep in mind that this will be the only open house this year. Check out the Lamar website for more info at lamarmiddleschool.org. ☼

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It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Compiled by Jill Whiteside Schavrda

The McCallum Website is your link to all information about McCallum High School. Go to the home page at www.mccallumhs.com and mark it as a favorite. The MACKNIGHTLY bi-weekly email newsletter brings you the most current news in a timely fashion. See <https://mccallumhs.com/programs/parents/> for more information.

Information below is compiled directly from the McCallum Website and Newsletter. Be sure to check school calendars for changes or updates.

Important Dates:

October 17 – Paying for College Info Session 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
October 24 – Royale Theatre Society Meeting- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - Library
Oct. 28 – Senior Yearbook Photo Make-Up Day
November – Senior Make-Up Portrait Day
November 2 and December 7 – Late Start Days

November 9-10th – Clubs and Organizations Photo Day – Cafeteria
November 11 – Homecoming Dance in Cafeteria
November 20 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holiday Break
December 4 – Kendra Scott Grad Knight Fundraiser – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
December 4 - PTSA Meeting in the Library 6:30-7:30 p.m.

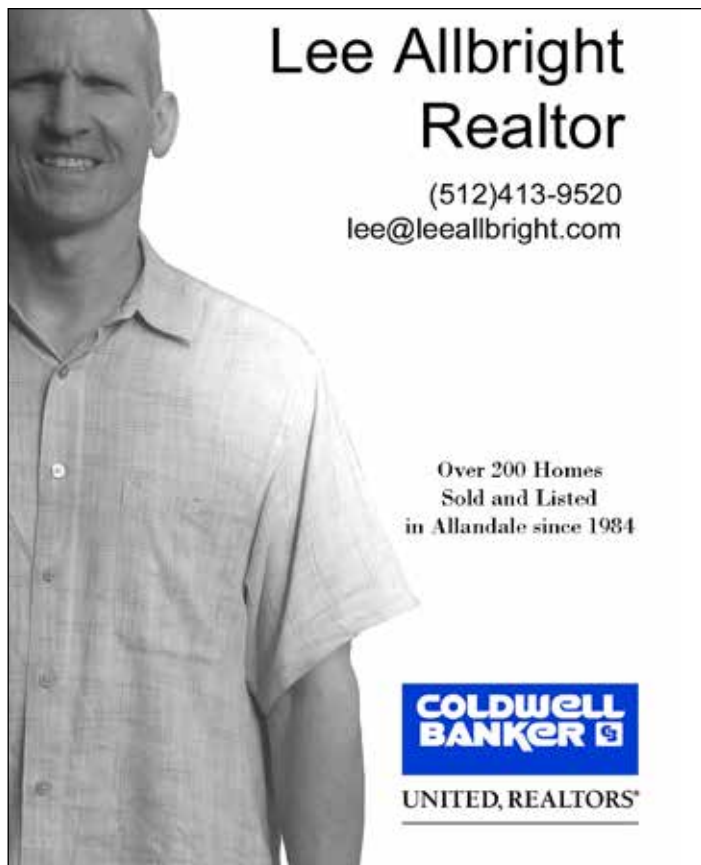
Naviance - Start College Planning Early!

Naviance is a web tool that offers students and parents a one-stop shop for post-secondary information. It helps students align their strengths and interests to post-secondary goals. Naviance helps students create a plan for their futures by discovering strengths and learning styles, and exploring college and career options. Naviance also shows when college recruiters are visiting McCallum, and gives users the ability to sign up to attend. It also enables students to access GPA, rank and test scores, as well as research college and career options, find scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Students create their four-year course plan in Naviance as well.

<https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=mccallumhsLogin>
Username: student ID# Password: student birthday mm/dd/yy (including slashes)

McCallum Fine Arts Academy

Prospective Fine Arts Academy Students:
Campus Tours for Parents and Families – 9:30-11:00 a.m.
October 17, 24, 31; November 7, 8, 14, 15, 28, 29; December 5, 12
Academy Workshop Day, December 16, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Performing and Visual Arts Secondary School Search:
National Performing and Visual Arts College Fair October 17 - Rice University, Houston- 6:30-8:30 p.m.
FAA Events and Concerts:
October 21 and 22 – Fall Dance Concert – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. MAC
October 22 Eastman, Julliard Ithaca Presentation – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. FABT
October 25 and 26 - Orchestra Fall Concert – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
October 27t– McCallum Fashion Show
Lock-in – 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. – Cafeteria



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October 28 - Theater Fundraiser –

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Cafeteria

October 31 – 2017 Halloween

Costume Strut 12:00 p.m. – 1:00

p.m. Courtyard

November 9 – Choir Cabaret – 11,

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. and November

12, 2:30-4:30 Choir Cabaret -MAC

November 11 NDEO Dance Performance – 8:00 – 11:30

a.m. San Antonio

November 9 -11 Act One 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., and November

12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. - FABT

November 14 -16 – Piano Solo Fall Recital – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
MAC

November 16 – Small Victories Client/Student Showcase –

Ehlers 5:00 -9:00 p.m. FABT Show at 7pm

November 30 - Battle of the Bands Fundraiser – 7:00 –

10:00 p.m. FABT

December 3 – Instrument Class Winter Concert – 2:00 –

5:00 p.m. FABT

December 3 – Instrument Ensemble Concert - 7:00 - 8:30

p.m. FABT

December 4 – Band Holiday Concert – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

MAC

December h – Orchestra Winter Concert – 7:00 - 10:30

p.m. MAC

December 7 – Guitar Program Winter Concert – 7:00 –

10:00 p.m. MAC

December 7 – Knights of Steel Dessert Concert – 7:00 -9:30

p.m. – Cafeteria

December 10 – Chamber Music Recital – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

FABT

Check <https://mccallumhs.com/fine-arts-academy/events/> for
any changes or updates.

McCallum HS Athletics

See a variety of sports scheduling and any updates/changes. <https://mccallumhs.com/programs/athletics/>

Cross Country

October 23 - Regional Cross-Country Meet at TX
A&M

McCallum Knights Football Schedule:

October 20 - MAC Football vs. Crockett at House
Park

November 3 – MAC Football vs. Lanier at House Park

November 10 - Mac Football vs. Reagan at House
Park (Homecoming)

- All games listed above at 7:30 p.m. More information
listed on the MAC Knights Football Website.

Volleyball

October 13 – McCallum vs. Travis** at McCallum

October 17 – McCallum vs. Crockett at Crockett

October 20 – McCallum vs. Lanier at Lanier

October 24 – McCallum vs. Ann Richards*** at
McCallum

Freshman 5:30 p.m., JV 6:30 p.m., Varsity 7:30 p.m.

** Parent Night ***Senior Night ☼



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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo, ANA Safety Chair, lhdicar-lo@yahoo.com

Since the writing of the August Neighborhood Watch article the Allandale Neighborhood Association's Safety Committee has monitored crime statistics and safety issues on the list-serv, dealt with graffiti, helped with neighborhood issues, and hosted 18 National Night Out parties.

Crime stats:

In the month of August there were five burglary of residences (BORs) on Bull Creek, North Loop, Cary, Chiappero Trail, and Lawnmont. Computers, musical equipment, a purse, and drugs were stolen.

There were four BORs in September, on Twin Oaks, Placid Place, the 6400 block of Shoal Creek, and Pinecrest. Be on the lookout (BOLO) for a blue Chevy Cruze that was caught on video during the midday burglary on Twin Oaks. The burglary on Placid Place appears to be related to a contract dispute and not random.

There were only two Burglary of Vehi-

cles (BOVs) in August, both on Burnet Road (JD Motors and Exxon Tiger Mart), and seven in September, on Ardath (NW Park), 5400 and 5900 blocks of Woodview, Anderson Lane (Ross Parking lot), 7100 Burnet (Priceless Rental Cars), Fairlane, and Cary. In the 5400 block of Woodview BOV a light colored two-door Honda, possibly a Prelude, was seen leaving the scene after a window had been broken on the victim's car. Computers were stolen in at least three of the cases and sports equipment was stolen on Cary. Five rental cars had windows broken at Priceless Rental Car but the only burglary occurred in a non-rental car. The stolen items were recovered in a van a few blocks south on Burnet.

Ross Cleveland Barrow was arrested on August 14 in connection with the beating death of a man in the Schlotzky's parking lot; this was discussed on the list-serv and brought up concerns over homeless in the area

A question that has come up— when to call 911 and when to call non-emergency 311? The key is to call 911 if you feel an officer is needed and call 311 to make a report about something that happened but did not need an officer's immediate

attention (i.e. — call 911 if you come home and think someone might be in your house but if a theft took place a few hours earlier and the perpetrator is long gone make a police report by calling 311).

List-serv:

Discussions on the list-serv related to crime and safety since my last article have included:

- importance of bikers following traffic rules, runners using lights when it's dark
- issues with panhandlers
- concerns re Zoe's Safe Place / sex offenders, the possibility of a homeless shelter at NW Rec Center
- Smash and grab purse stolen from a locked car parked in front of Gullett for 15 minutes in the middle of a weekday
- Gold Kia van with new car license tag and body work on driver's side associated with bike thefts from Deep Eddy Pool was seen parked at Greenlawn and SCB. BOLO!
- 5400 block of Woodview near Lawnmont, odd incident with naked man in the street in the middle of the night
- Phone scams— "Health Group" saying they're selling health insurance, IRS saying you owe, and missed jury duty fine; don't believe any of them!
- Dogs owners getting warned at tickets at Northwest Park if dogs off leash
- Advice asked for and received about how to stay safe around unleashed dogs; key is to avoid signs of aggression

Activities of the Safety Committee:

- Continued to abate and report graffiti in Allandale
- Spoke with APD's Detective Monroe who was interviewed for the September 22 Statesman article on graffiti and he said the best thing is to take pictures and send using the 311 app regardless of whether we remove the graffiti ourselves
- Tommie Calfee from Drive a Senior reached out with materials for NNO parties
- Our APD DR Officer Beldin is helping with directed patrols around Gullett as well as GNB for speeding and parking/driving violations, and in the Shoalmont area b/c of recent break-ins.
- Officer Beldin has helped with other neighborhood issues including a man yelling in the night, a man who has

Allandale Specialist and 11 Year Resident.



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been yelling at residents, an abandoned house where teens were congregating, etc.

- Hosted 18 National Night Out parties (see separate article with pics)
- Sent NNO party locations to an ANA EC rep as he wanted to display for residents on the ANA Facebook page.
- Girl Scout working on her Gold Project which will be clearing Allandale sidewalks of hanging brush and has asked the Safety Committee to remind folks yearly of the need
- Wrote a letter of support for a grant possibility to obtain a shade structure over one of the Gullett playgrounds
- Was called by KXAN about feelings towards possibility of a homeless shelter at NW Rec Center but was not interviewed due to delayed response
- Provided a requested summary of volunteer opportunities on the safety committee to the ANA EC

Our APD District Representative is:
Officer Everett Beldin
everett.beldin@austintexas.gov
512-974-1219 ☞

Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action

Nina Rinaldi, Development Coordinator, Shoal Creek Conservancy

Attention all bikers, hikers, walkers, and nature lovers: thanks to Shoal Creek Conservancy, it's about to get a lot easier to bike and walk from north Austin to south! The Conservancy, a local community nonprofit, is working with the City of Austin to improve, extend, and connect the Shoal Creek Trail.

Among the many treasures that await visitors to Austin's Shoal Creek is a 3.25 mile long patchwork of trail that runs alongside the creek from Lady Bird Lake to 38th Street and Lamar Boulevard. Shoal Creek Conservancy works with the city, community groups, and businesses, to protect, restore, and enhance Shoal Creek and its surroundings. Through its community-guided Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan, SCC will make the trail more accessible to people of all physical abilities and will install amenities such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, and maps. The Shoal Creek Trail will also grow Austin's expanding urban trail network by connecting to the Northern Walnut Creek Trail to the

north, and to the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail and the regional Violet Crown Trail to the south. Where possible on public land, a creekside trail will be constructed. Where the Creek extends through private land, the creekside trail will transition to a safe on-street bike route.

The improved trail will encourage green, human-powered transportation, provide a setting for outdoor family activities, and inspire Austinites to discover Shoal Creek's hidden natural gems.

Learn more and give your input!

Please visit www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan to review the proposed route and give your feedback! Email suggestions and thoughts to info@shoalcreekconservancy.org.

Allandale residents are encouraged to attend the next Shoal Creek Trail Community Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Meeting location is Rock Rose Hall at 11420 Rock Rose Blvd. #100B Austin, TX 78758. The purpose of this meeting is to gain public input on the trail plan process so that the new Shoal Creek Trail can best serve the needs of our community!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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ALLANDALE AREA	PROPERTY SALES YEAR TO DATE		
	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	50	48	58
AVG SALES PRICE	\$502,322	\$555,250	\$608,133
AVG DAYS ON MARKET	17	32	34
AVG \$/SQ FT	\$262	\$287	\$297
MAX PRICE SOLD	\$737,990	\$880,000	\$1,255,000
MIN PRICE SOLD	\$310,000	\$399,900	\$409,500

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of August 10, 2017. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.



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Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

SCC also regularly organizes volunteer service days along the creek. If you are interested in volunteering by yourself or with a group, please visit <https://www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/events> or contact volunteer@shoalcreekconservancy.org for other volunteer opportunities. To learn more about SCC and support its work, visit shoalcreekconservancy.org. ☞

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Austin's Pools Under Water

Steve Johnson

As summer ends and with it the pool season, your family hopefully has good memories of the time you spent at Northwest Pool. Located in Beverly Sheffield Park here in Allandale, Northwest Pool has been a neighborhood icon since it opened in 1956.

However, like many other pools in Austin, Northwest Pool is "aging out", lasting long past its expected lifetime of about 25 years. Many of Austin's pools are in need of serious repairs or even replacement. The problem with doing that is money.

According to the recently completed aquatics master plan, it will cost between \$150 million and \$200 million to replace all of Austin's aging pools (It's like remodeling your house, only a lot more expensive!) Austin's

Parks and Recreation Department estimates that, if an as-yet-unspecified 10 pools closed permanently, the cost would be "only" \$96 million.

Yet currently, only \$15 million is allocated in the proposed 2018 bond package for aquatics. This is a big problem and it affects many of Austin's pools, including Northwest Pool.

Austin's pools need your help! Here are some ways you can get involved:

If you're technical and have time, read the Austin aquatics master plan and appendixes: <https://austintexas.gov/departments/aquatic-master-plan>

To connect with others who share an interest in improving and preserving Northwest Pool, email friendofnorthwestpool@gmail.com

To connect with others who want to preserve all of Austin's pools, go to <https://loveaustinpools.wordpress.com/contact/>

Sign the online petition calling for the city council to allocate more than \$15 million for Austin's pools: <https://www.change.org/p/austin-city-council-increase-bond-money-for-aquatics> ☞

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All residents within Allandale's boundaries are welcome to join the Allandale Neighborhood Association. Membership runs January-December. Dues may be paid in advance for multiple years.

Name _____

Address & Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Dues: ☐ \$20/household ☐ \$10/age 55+ household

Please make checks payable to:

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Or join online via PayPal at: www.allandaleneighbor.com



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